

Connecticut Home Visiting Consortium Meeting
Wednesday, July 29, 2015
9:00-11:00

Minutes

Consortium Members in attendance: Pam Langer, Darcy Lowell, Melissa Mendez, Noraleen Dunphy, Kathy Bleacher, Crista Marchesseault, Merrill Gay, Judith Meyers, Kareena DuPlessis, Grace Whitney, Karen Foley-Schain, Kim Nilson, Donna Maselli, Mickey Kramer

Welcome and Introductions were facilitated by co-chairpersons Karen Foley Schain and Melissa Mendez

Purpose of the Consortium

State Legislative Mandate: Maggie Adair, Director, Government & Community Relations at the Connecticut Office of Early Childhood (OEC) presented information on *Public Act No. 15-45 AN ACT ESTABLISHING A HOME VISITATION PROGRAM CONSORTIUM* including membership requirements, voting process and policy, consortium report to the legislature and recommendations to be addressed.

State Advisory Committee for the MIECHV grant program: Catherine Lenihan, Project Coordinator for the Maternal Infant and Early Home Visiting grant presented information on the MIECHV grant including the statewide needs assessment, the transfer of the programs from CT DPH to CT OEC, the commonalities between the legislative mandate for the Home Visiting Consortium and the Advisory Committee for the MIECHV grant program. These include, ensuring families have access to appropriate home visiting services, strengthening the referral infrastructure and coordinated training.

Other topics/ideas that were generated:

- Several task forces exist in CT – what will be the connection?
- Need more formal collaboration on grass roots
- Looking at capacity, wait lists and unmet needs
- Updated Needs Assessment
- Long term sustainability
- Assist OEC in messaging around home visiting
- Collaboration among state agencies – intersection of funds and programs
- Involve the medical community
- Look at outcomes
- Universal agenda – system of paid family leave – home visiting for all CT families
- Additional members, Nurse Family Partnership, DSS, Triple P

Home Visiting Report to the Legislature

Mary Farnsworth, Strategic Planning Manager at the CT OEC, presented the work of the home visiting workgroup including the workgroup membership, the objectives, the process and the recommendations sent to the legislature. The 2014 December Report brief was shared and members were encouraged to read the full report.

Getting Started

Karen Foley Schain and Melissa Mendez facilitated a group discussion around the work of the consortium and concluded with the request that all read the full legislative report. Members were asked to:

- identify a few things that are within their area of interest and could be accomplished in the next year
- identify things that are missing
- identify additional information that would be helpful

Meeting Schedule

Bimonthly - next meeting is Wednesday September 30th 9:00-11:00 State Department of Higher Education, First Floor Boardroom

Public Comment

- Request to focus on population outcomes rather than building a system
- Look at cost saving for prevention down the road
- Request to focus on outcomes for families
- It's complicated to provide a continuum – how do we support the highest need families